

through the unit circuit 5, and the resulting signal is delivered to the DSP/CPU 3.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, ^{line 16-line 26}~~line 27~~ to page 13, ~~line 7~~ as follows:

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T.T.

When the operation command confirmed in step SA6 is weighting AE for individual areas, the detection block and its peripheral eight blocks are set as shown in step SA9 to a higher order area A2 of eight-times weighted, its peripheral forty (maximum; however, in this example, thirty-three) blocks are set to a medium order area A3 of four-times weighted, and the other blocks are set to a lower order area A4 of non-weighted, respectively, as weighting areas in automatic exposure control as shown in FIG. 8 (step SA8). Thereafter, the processes in steps SA10 to SA13 are conducted to store image data.

Please amend the paragraph on page 18, line 26 to page 19, line 11 as follows:

In the above description, the present invention is applied to the digital camera 1. However, the present